

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a cell, comprising:

irradiating a living cell or a living tissue with a laser beam with 1-100 m/cm² of the energy density and 1-1000 mJ/cm² of the energy output through a hollow optical fiber filled with an inert gas; and

cutting off, removing or boring a cell wall or a cell membrane or an entirety of the cell wall thus irradiated;

wherein the cell is irradiated with the laser through reflection and condensing which are effected through a chip of quartz glass.glass in which hydroxide groups have been introduced.

2. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the laser beam has a wavelength of 500 nm or less.

3-4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein a surface of the quartz glass chip is coated with a metal.

6. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 5, wherein the coating metal is at least one metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, platinum, gold, palladium, and oxides thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the laser is at least one laser selected from the group consisting of an YAG laser, an excimer laser, an Ar ion laser, a nitrogen laser and a nitrogen-excited laser.

8. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, which further comprises introducing a foreign matter into the living cell and/or the living tissue through a laser-irradiated portion thereof after irradiation with the laser beam.

9. (Original) The method set forth in claim 8, wherein the foreign matter is at least one selected from the group consisting of a genetic substance, a protein, an organelle, a physiologically active substance and an indicating agent.

10. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, wherein the genetic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of a DNA, an RNA, an oligonucleotide, a plasmid, a chromosome, an artificial chromosome, an organelle DNA, and a nucleic acid analogue.

11-12 (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the inert gas is at least one gas selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen gas, an argon gas and a helium gas.

14. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein a wall surface of the hollow optical fiber is coated with a metal.

15. (Canceled).